

- Whole Building Design Guide, <http://www.wbdg.org>;
- Roadmap for Integrating Sustainable Design into Site-Level Operations, PNNL-13183, K. L. Peterson and J.A. Dorsey; and A Design Guide for Energy-Efficient Research Laboratories, <http://ateam.lbl.gov/Design-Guide/>.

All of the planning processes and commitments described in Section 1.2.3 were considered during the development of the proposed short-term and long-term actions described in Chapter 2.

1.3 CHARACTERISTICS OF A SITE-WIDE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

This document is a “Site-Wide Environmental Assessment” similar to the document NREL prepared for the project site in 1996. DOE defines a site-wide environmental document as follows:

“A broad-scope EIS or EA that is *programmatic* in nature and identifies and assesses the individual and cumulative impacts of ongoing and reasonably foreseeable future actions at a DOE site.” (10CFR Part 1021)

NEPA and other environmental regulations define the term “programmatic,” and the application of programmatic environmental documents. In general, a programmatic document applies to a series of related projects and where the projects should be analyzed as an overall program. This approach is proper for analyzing a series of projects that are related either:

1. Geographically;
2. As logical parts in a chain of contemplated actions;
3. In connection with the issuance of rules, regulations, plans or other general criteria to govern the conduct of a continuing program; or
4. As individual activities carried out under the same authorizing statutory or regulatory authority and have generally similar environmental effects which can be mitigated in similar ways.

At the NWTC, the Proposed Action, as described in Chapter 2, is composed of improvements that are related geographically and are part of a series of interconnected actions to be implemented by NREL.

This Site-Wide EA provides an analytical superstructure for subsequent, more detailed analyses, as necessary. The document will serve as a planning tool that aids decisions about future development of the site. If new issues arise in the future, NREL will prepare subsequent environmental reviews or NEPA documents (EISs/EAs) that would incorporate the analyses from this programmatic document and would be focused only on those issues that have not been adequately addressed. If new proposals or conditions were to be determined by DOE, consistent with its regulations, to have no effects beyond those analyzed in the programmatic document, no new NEPA document would be necessary.

The Supplemental Analysis determines whether the Site-Wide EA remains adequate or a new Site-Wide NEPA document is required. NREL is scheduled to prepare the next Supplemental Analysis in 2007.